

Reference Guide for Crabs and Coastal Organisms



INVASIVE

Asian Shore Crab
Hemigrapsus sanguineus



Striped legs. Males have fleshy bulb-like structure at base of moveable finger of claw.

INVASIVE

Chinese Mitten Crab
Eriocheir sinensis



Hairy front claws with white tips.
If you see this, report to Ranger immediately!

INVASIVE

Green Crab
Carcinus maenas



Black/green body with hairy back legs. Has five marginal teeth on each side of eyes.

Lady (or Calico) Crab
Ovalipes ocellatus



Pink shell is covered with orange/brown spots and has paddle-like legs on back.

Mud Crab
Panopeus herbstii



Color of body may vary from green-blue, black, or olive-brown. Has two black claws with white tips.

Rock Crab
Cancer irroratus



Red/purple fan-shaped shell. Has nine smooth edged teeth to the sides of each eye, and three small teeth between eyes.

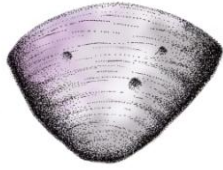
(Long Nose) Spider Crab
Libinia dubia



Brown, with long legs and with six spikes down the median line of the carapace.¹

¹ Similar to the Portly Spider Crab (*Libinia emarginata*) which has nine spikes, not six, down the carapace.

Amethyst Gemclam
Gemma gemma



Shell may be glossy smooth or have concentric rings. Very small, only about 1/8" long.

Amphipod
Gammarus sp.



Mostly white; <2" with two antennae. Legs vary in size. Body is laterally compressed (flattened side to side).

Atlantic Jackknife ("Razor Clam")
Ensis directus



Long, smooth hard shell; one rounded end.²

Atlantic Ribbed Mussel
Geukensia demissa



Beige/black ribbed shell with radial markings.

Blue Mussel
Mytilus edulis



Black/Blue and smooth shell with radial markings.

Common Periwinkle
Littorina littorea



Sharply pointed, with dark spiral bands. Can grow to 1 1/2" long.

Eastern Mud Whelk ("Mudsnail")
Nassarius obsoleta



Black spiral shell, white tip (apex). Oval opening (aperture).

Long-clawed Hermit Crab
Pagurus longicarpus



Long narrow claws. One claw larger than other. Exoskeleton covers half the body.

Polychaete Worm



Species have hair-like structures (setae) that branch out from a segmented body.³

Northern Quahog
Mercenaria mercenaria



Hard, heavy shell with rings on the exterior. Inside usually has a bright purple edge.

Slippersnail
Crepidula fornicata



Purple/White, resembles a slipper. May be found in stacks.

Northern Rock Barnacle
Semibalanus balanoides



Round, with opening on top. Forms dense aggregations attached to living/non-living things.

Bladderwrack
Fucus vesiculosus



Yellow/deep green; bulbs at the ends.

Irish Moss
Chondrus crispus



Purplish/red; near rocks; 7-10" tall.

Sea Lettuce
Ulva rigida



Green/dark green; resembles lettuce; floats in water.

² There is an actual species called a "Razor Clam", but the term Razor Clam designates clams in the family, *Solenidae*.

³ There are many different species of polychaete worms, and body forms differ among them.